

them that they are responsible for their actions and the consequences of those actions. I must teach them that blaming others is not acceptable.

12. ***I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth*** (Ecclesiastes 10:7). I must teach my children that life is not fair. The wicked often prosper, the righteous often suffer, good deeds often go unrewarded, and those who deserve to be punished seldom are. I must teach my children that God will settle all accounts in eternity.

13. ***Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;*** (Galatians 4:1). I must teach my children to do what they should, when they should, not for hope of gain or reward, but because it is right in the eyes of God.

14. ***For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others*** (Philippians 2:21, 4). I must teach my children that the world does not revolve around them. Everyone does not have to think they are wonderful, agree with them, or be kind to them in order to be treated with dignity and respect. I must teach them to not be offended or bitter when someone does not adore them.

15. ***Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him*** (Proverbs

22:15). I must teach my children that there are two sides to every story, and both usually contain some truth and some error. I must teach my children to draw no conclusions until both sides of the matter have been studied.

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WHAT I MUST TEACH MY CHILDREN

James W. Knox

These fifteen truths I must impart to my children if they are to enjoy life more abundant.

1. ***In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*** (Genesis 1:1). I must teach my children that there is a God (Hebrews 11:6); that He is their Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:1); and that to Him they are accountable (Romans 12:10).

2. ***And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up*** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). I must teach my children the precepts, stories, and doctrines of the Bible. I must teach my children that these words are

absolutely true. I must teach them to never be ashamed of the truth.

3. ***But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*** (2 Timothy 3:14-15). I must make my children wise unto salvation by joyfully declaring to them the gospel message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4. ***But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play*** (1 Corinthians 10:5-7). I must teach my children that work comes before play. Homework comes before recreation; chores come before entertainment; and church comes before sports, school activities, and the like. I must teach my children that idleness leads to poverty and that no one owes them a free ride through life.

5. ***Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil*** (Ecclesiastes 8:11). I must teach my children that disobeying authority brings

judgment. I must teach them that rebellion and lawlessness are costly and painful, and by so doing I will deliver their souls from the prison, the mission, and hell fire.

6. ***But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*** (Revelation 21:8). I must teach my children that all lies are bad. White lies, little fibs, socially acceptable lies, exaggerations, shaded lies, implied lies, guile, and all speech that is to any degree untrue is to be scorned.

7. ***And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled*** (1 Samuel 17:4, 23, 51). The only champion in the Bible is Goliath. I must teach my children that they do not have to win. I must teach them to do their best. I must teach them to be all that

God has enabled them to be without being proud or vain, timid or intimidated.

8. ***Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*** (1 John 2:15). I must teach my children to function as beneficial members of society without yielding to the sins, customs, and fashions of that society. I must teach them to be a friend to sinners without participating in the sin, to go into all the world to preach the gospel without any of the world entering into their heart.

9. ***Jesus wept*** (John 11:35). I must teach my children to care about others. The expressions of care will be as different as their personalities, but a genuine concern for the welfare of their peers is essential to the enjoyment of life.

10. ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right*** (Ephesians 6:1). I must teach my children to obey those in authority over them. On the job, in the community, in the church house, life is much less complicated for those who know how to cheerfully bear the yoke.

11. ***And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*** (Genesis 3:12-13). I must teach my children that there is no excuse for inappropriate behavior. I must teach →→